

CLAIM SUMMARY DOCUMENT

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A vehicle door handle device comprising:
 - a frame equipped on a door panel of a vehicle door;
 - a handgrip having a first end portion rotatably mounted on the frame and a second end portion forming an operation portion linked with a door lock mechanism, the handgrip being rotatable within a predetermined angle to operate the door lock mechanism and effect opening of the vehicle door when the operation portion of the handgrip is moved to rotate the handgrip relative to the frame;
 - a projection formed on one of the frame and the first end portion of the handgrip; [and]
 - a groove formed on the other of the frame and the first end portion of the handgrip, the projection being positioned in the groove ~~when the handgrip is not rotated relative to the frame and moving to move~~ within the groove when the operation portion of the handgrip is moved to rotate the handgrip relative to the frame, the projection being engageable with a periphery of the groove to inhibit dislocation of the handgrip from the frame; and
 - the first end portion of the handgrip being rotatably mounted on the frame by way of a shaft portion provided on the frame so that the handgrip rotates about the shaft portion, the shaft portion being different from the projection and being received

in a slot provided on the first end of the handgrip, the slot being different from the groove.

2. (Original) The door handle device according to Claim 1, wherein the frame comprises a first base member and a separate second base member, the first and second base members being spaced apart from one another.

3. (Original) The door handle device according to Claim 2, wherein the projection is provided on the first base member and the groove is provided on the first end portion of the handgrip.

4. (Original) The door handle device according to Claim 1, wherein the projection is provided on the frame and the groove is provided on the first end portion of the handgrip.

5. (Original) The door handle device according to Claim 1, wherein the groove includes an inclined surface portion and a fitting portion, the projection being positioned in the fitting portion, and the fitting portion having oppositely located peripheral portions defining limits of the predetermined angle of rotation of the handgrip.

6. (Currently Amended) The door handle device according to Claim 1, wherein the ~~frame includes an integrally formed shaft portion~~ is integrally formed with the frame and the slot is an open-ended slot formed at ~~and the first end portion of the handgrip includes an open-ended slot receiving the shaft portion,~~ the handgrip rotating about the shaft portion when the operation portion of the handgrip is moved away from the frame to rotate the handgrip relative to the frame.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A vehicle door handle device comprising:
a frame equipped on a door panel of a vehicle door;
a handgrip mounted on the frame through insertion of the handgrip into the frame in an insertion direction, the handgrip having a first end portion rotatable

relative to the frame about a rotation center portion and a second end portion forming an operation portion linked with a door lock mechanism, the handgrip being rotatable relative to the frame within a predetermined angle at the rotation center portion to operate the door lock mechanism and effect opening of the vehicle door when the second end portion is moved away from the frame; ~~and~~

a projection and a groove provided between the frame and the handgrip, the projection being positioned in the groove ~~when the handgrip is not rotated relative to the frame and during rotation of the handgrip relative to the frame~~, the projection being movable in the groove during rotation of the handgrip and being engageable with a boundary of the groove in the insertion direction of the handgrip; and

the first end of the handgrip being rotatable relative to the frame about the rotation center portion by way of a shaft portion provided on the frame, the shaft portion being different from the projection and being received in a slot provided in the handgrip, the slot being different from the groove.

13. (Original) The door handle device according to Claim 12, wherein the frame comprises a first base member and a separate second base member, the first and second base members being spaced apart from one another.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) The door handle device according to Claim ~~44~~ 13, wherein the projection is formed on one of the first base member and the first end portion of the handgrip, and the groove is formed on the other of the first base member and the first end portion of the handgrip.

16. (Original) The door handle device according to Claim ~~44~~ 13, wherein the shaft portion is formed on the first base member.

17. (Withdrawn) The door handle device according to Claim 12, wherein the projection is formed on one of the frame or the operation portion, and the groove is formed on the other of the frame and the operation portion.

18. (Withdrawn) The door handle device according to Claim 17, wherein the groove further comprises an opening portion opening in the ~~inserting~~ insertion direction of the handgrip.

19. (Currently Amended) A vehicle door handle device comprising:
a frame equipped on a door panel of a vehicle door;
a handgrip mounted on the frame through insertion of the handgrip into the frame, the handgrip having a first end portion rotatable relative to the frame about a rotation center portion and a second end portion forming an operation portion linked

with a door lock mechanism, the handgrip being positioned in an initial non-operated position in which the second end portion is not moved away from the frame and being rotatable relative to the frame within a predetermined angle about the rotation center portion when the second end portion is moved away from the frame to operate the door lock mechanism and effect opening of the vehicle door; ~~and~~

a projection and a groove provided between the frame and the handgrip, the projection being positioned in the groove both in the initial non-operated position of the handgrip and during rotation of the handgrip relative to the frame as the second end portion of the handgrip is moved away from the frame; and

the first end of the handgrip being rotatable relative to the frame about the rotation center portion by way of a shaft portion provided on the frame, the shaft portion being different from the projection and being received in a slot provided in the handgrip, the slot being different from the groove.

20. (Previously Presented) The door handle device according to Claim 19, wherein the frame comprises first and second spaced apart base members.

21. (Previously Presented) The door handle device according to Claim 20, wherein the projection is formed on one of the first base member and the first end portion of the handgrip, and the groove is formed on the other of the first base member and the first end portion of the handgrip.

22. (Currently Amended) The door handle device according to Claim 19, wherein the frame comprises first and second base members that are separate from one another, ~~the rotation center portion being defined by a shaft portion engaging a recessed portion~~, the shaft portion being formed on the first base member.

23. (Previously Presented) The door handle device according to Claim 19, wherein the projection is formed on one of the frame or the operation portion, and the groove is formed on the other of the frame and the operation portion.

24. (Previously Presented) The door handle device according to Claim 19, wherein the handgrip is mounted on the frame through insertion of the handgrip into the frame in an insertion direction, the groove comprising an opening portion opening in the insertion direction of the handgrip.

25. (Previously Presented) The door handle device according to Claim 19, wherein the groove is arc-shaped and possesses a center of curvature that is concentric with the rotation center portion.

26. (Previously Presented) The door handle device according to Claim 1, wherein the handgrip is rotatable about a rotation center, the groove being arc-shaped and possessing a center of curvature that is concentric with the rotation center.